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1-25. (cancelled)

26. (new) An automated method for preventing mechanical stress to a discharge vessel of a discharge lamp, the method comprising using a control device to effectuate operations in a lamp, the operations comprising:

- receiving an actuation indication for switching on or switching off of the lamp; and
- responsive to the actuation indication, providing control signals to coordinate cooling and power to the lamp, the control signals specifying:
  - at least one intermediate value for the cooling or the power to the lamp or both, which intermediate value is between full on and full off;
  - at least one timing relative to the actuation indication and associated with the intermediate value; and
  - parameters for turning the cooling and power to the lamp full on or full off, in accordance with whether the lamp is to be switched on or off, respectively.

27. (new) The method of claim 26, wherein during a time interval subsequent to the actuation indication , the control signals specify

- a first plurality of stepwise intermediate values for cooling between full on and full off; and
- a second plurality of stepwise intermediate values for lamp driver power between full on and full off.

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28. (new) The method of claim 27, wherein the control signals further specify a plurality of timings relative to the actuation indication, each timing being associated with at least one of the first and second plurality of stepwise intermediate values.

29. (new) A control unit for controlling a lamp driver and a cooling device for a discharge lamp, the control unit effectuating operations comprising:

- receiving an actuation indication for switching on or switching off of the lamp; and
- responsive to the actuation indication, providing control signals to coordinate cooling and power to the lamp, the control signals specifying:
    - at least one intermediate value for the cooling or the power to the lamp or both, which intermediate value is between full on and full off;
    - at least one timing relative to the actuation indication and associated with the intermediate value; and
    - parameters for turning the cooling and power to the lamp full on or full off, in accordance with whether the lamp is to be switched on or off, respectively.

30. (new) A control unit as claimed in claim 29, comprising a microprocessor unit and a memory for storing at least one switching schedule according to which the power to a lamp and power to a cooling device are alternately and/or stepwise increased or decreased, in accordance with whether the lamp is to be switched on or off, respectively .

31. (new) A control unit as claimed in claim 29, which is provided for

- adjusting power of a cooling device as a function of the current supplied instantaneously to

the lamp or as a function of power of a lamp driver, and/or

- adjusting lamp control parameters as a function of the instantaneous power of the cooling device.

32. (new) A control unit as claimed in claim 29, wherein the operations comprise reducing power of the lamp and power of a cooling device stepwise, until the lamp is switching off responsive to controlled power reduction without cooling.

33. (new) A control unit as claimed in claim 29,

comprising

- a first input for detecting a parameter of a cooling device, which cooling device acts on the lamp, and
- a second input for detecting a lamp driver control parameter, and

wherein the control signals are to the cooling device and a lamp driver and are adjusted responsive to signals detected at the first and second inputs in such a way that there is no .excursion from a predetermined range of the lamp temperature during a time interval after the actuation indication.

34. (new) The control unit of claim 29, wherein a lamp driver is incorporated in the control unit.

35. (new) A lamp driver for driving a discharge lamp and a cooling device for the discharge lamp, which lamp driver comprises a control unit according to claim 29.

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36. (new) An assembly comprising the control unit of claim 29 and a lamp driver, the lamp driver being internal or external to the control unit and comprising a trigger circuit for operating the discharge lamp, wherein the control unit controls the trigger circuit and a cooling device via a first and a second output. respectively.

37. (New) An assembly as claimed in claim 36, wherein the control unit detects the lamp current and/or the lamp voltage and/or the lamp power via the trigger circuit, which is connected with the second input of the control unit.

38. (new) A lighting unit comprising a discharge lamp, the assembly of claim 36; and the cooling device.

39. (new) A lighting unit as claimed in claim 38, comprising a first sensor for detecting a cooling power of the cooling device, which cooling power acts on the lamp, and/or a second sensor for detecting a lamp temperature, wherein the control unit is provided for controlling the lamp driver and the cooling device by means of a signal of the first and/or the second sensor in such a way that there is no excursion from a predetermined range of the lamp temperature during a timing interval subsequent to the actuation indication.

40. (new) A lighting unit as claimed in claim 39, wherein the first sensor is provided for detecting a property of a gas stream leaving a nozzle of the cooling device and being directed onto the discharge lamp.

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41. (new) The lighting unit of claim 40, wherein the property is pressure, volume or velocity.

42. (new) A lighting unit as claimed in claim 39, wherein the second sensor is arranged on the discharge vessel of the lamp for detecting the temperature of the wall of the discharge vessel.

43. (new) A projection system comprising a lighting unit according to claim 38.